WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of detecting a DNA in a milk sample, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting said milk sample with a metal ion chelator;

(b) contacting said milk sample with a detergent;

(c) after steps (a) and (b), detecting said DNA thereby detecting the DNA in said milk sample.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein no protease is added to said milk sample.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting said DNA is quantitating said DNA, thereby determining the somatic cell count within the milk sample.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said milk sample is a crude bovine milk sample.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said metal ion chelator is a member selected from the group of EDTA, CyDTA, DHEG, DTPA-OH, DTPA, EDDA, EDDP, EDDPO, EDTA-OH, EDTPO, EGTA, HBED, HDTA, HIDA, IDA, Methyl-EDTA, NTA, NTP, NTPO, O-Bistren, and TTHA, o-phenanthroline, dipicolinic acid, and deferoxamine.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said metal ion chelator is EDTA.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said detergent is a non-ionic detergent.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said non-ionic detergent is a member selected from the group of Octylglucoside, Digitonin, C12E8, Lubrol, Triton X-100, Nonidet P-40, Tween-80, Tween-20, BRIG 35, Dodecyl maltopyranoside, Heptyl thioglucopyranoside, Pluronic F-127, Genapol X-080, MEGA 10.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said detergent is Tween-20.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising

(c) contacting said milk sample with a detectable DNA probe;

(d) after steps, (a), (b), and (c), detecting said detectable DNA probe thereby detecting said DNA in said milk sample.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the milk sample is between 8.0 and 11.0, inclusive.

12. An analytical composition comprising a milk sample, a metal ion chelator, and a detergent, wherein said milk sample comprises a nucleic acid.

13. The composition of claim 12, wherein said milk sample is a crude milk sample.

14. The composition of claim 12, wherein said nucleic acid is a DNA.

15. The composition of claim 14, wherein said composition further comprises a detectable DNA probe.

16. The composition of claim 12, wherein said composition does not include a protease.

17. The composition of claim 12, wherein said metal ion chelator is a member selected from the group of EDTA, CyDTA, DHEG, DTPA-OH, DTPA, EDDA, EDDP, EDDPO, EDTA-OH, EDTPO, EGTA, HBED, HDTA, HIDA, IDA, Methyl-EDTA, NTA, NTP, NTPO, O-Bistren, and TTHA, o-phenanthroline, dipicolinic acid, and deferoxamine.

18. The composition of claim 12, wherein said metal ion chelator is EDTA.

19. The composition of claim 12, wherein said detergent is a non-ionic detergent.

20. The composition of claim 19, wherein said non-ionic detergent is a member selected from the group of Octylglucoside, Digitonin, C12E8, Lubrol, Triton X-100, Nonidet P-40, Tween-80, Tween-20, BRIG 35, Dodecyl maltopyranoside, Heptyl thioglucopyranoside, Pluronic F-127, Genapol X-080, MEGA 10.

21. The composition of claim 12, wherein said detergent Tween-20.

22. A kit for detecting a nucleic acid in a milk sample comprising a metal ion chelator, a detergent, and a detectable DNA probe.

23. The kit of claim 22 further comprising a fluorescence detection system.